# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:466
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since March, 2004 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries;

(c) the details of the bilateral agreements including agreement on Agricultural products signed with them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with other countries ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

The visits of Foreign Dignitaries to India from March to June 2004 are given below, country-wise:

BHUTAN

(a) (b) & (c) Mr. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Foreign Minister of Bhutan visited India on June 7-10,2004. Bilateral discussions were held including security related issues, economic and cultural cooperation. No agreements were signed during the visit.

BANGLADESH

(a) & (b) The Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Shri Morshed Khan visited India from 31st May till 4th June 2004. He came as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and delivered letter of invitation to Prime Minister and Chairperson of the UPA to visit Bangladesh.

(c)No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

SRI LANKA

(a) Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka visited India from 28 to 29 April 2004 and again from 30 May to 2 June 2004.

(b) On both occasions, the Minister came on a Bilateral visit.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

THAILAND

(a) The Foreign Minister of Thailand Mr. Surakiart Sathirathai visited India on June 8-11,2004

(b) The visit was primarily for making contacts with the new Government. However, issues of bilateral, regional and International significance were discussed during the visit.

(c) No bilateral agreement was signed

IRAN:

(a) Head of Judiciary of Iran, Ayatollah Shahroudi visited India from 9-15 March 2004.

(b) Strengthening of bilateral relations, especially development of relations in the field of judicial cooperation was discussed. As per the MoU on the Road Map to Strategic Cooperation signed between the two countries in January 2003, the two countries are following a focused approach to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the spheres of political dialogue, energy, trade and transit and science and technology.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit

ZANZIBAR:

(a) H.E. Mr. Amani Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar paid an official visit to India from March 8-12, 2004;

(b) Deliberations were held on a variety of issues including importance of strengthening democracy in the respective countries; assisting Zanzibar in the field of science and technology by deputing teachers in science & technology, by training Zanzibar teachers as well as by providing aid in the form of books, educational kits, computers and hospital equipment. Discussions were also held to provide assistance to Zanzibar in rice farming especially in undertaking research on rice seeds/

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

WEST AFRICA: TEAM-9 Meeting in New Delhi

(a) The Foreign Ministers/Ministers in-charge of TEAM-9 Countries (Techno Economic Approach for India Africa Movement ) visited India between February 29 to March 3 to attend the Meeting of TEAM-9.

(b) Wide range of subjects like cooperation in agriculture, irrigation, water management, health, communications, small scale industries, human resource development, employment and energy were discussed.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding for Technical and Economic Cooperation and Transfer of Technology was signed between India and the 8 African countries from West Africa, namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Buinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali and Senegal. For this purpose, the Government of India announced a Line of Credit of US$500 million to be used for projects and infrastructure development of these West African countries.

U.K.

(a) to (c) Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott visited India as a Special Envoy of the UK Prime Minister from 24-25 June 2004. He called on Prime Minister and also met External Affairs Minister during the visit. The UK Deputy Prime Minister handed over to Prime Minister letters from UK Prime Minister Mr.Tony Blair. EAM had earlier visited UK on 16 June 2004. Steps continue to be taken to develop bilateral relations with the UK in a wide range of areas.

USA:

(a) Mr. Colin Powell, Secretary of State of USA paid an official visit to India on March 15, 2004;

(b) Both sides exchanged views on all bilateral and international issues;

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit

BRAZIL& SOUTH AFRICA (IBSA)

(a) (b) & (c) Foreign Minister of Brazil, H.E. Ceslo Amorin and Foreign Minister of South Africa H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, visited India on March 4-5, 2004 at the invitation of EAM for First Meeting of the Trilateral Commission of India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum. At the end of the meeting the New Delhi Agenda of Cooperation and Plan of Action was adopted by the three Foreign Ministers.

(d) Strengthening of relations with other countries is a continuous process.

Most Immediate Parliament Question

No. AA/125/Parl/42/2004 MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(COORDINATION DIVISION)

Subject: Lok Sabha Provisional Starred Question No. 714 for 07.07.2004 by Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh and others regarding `Visit of Foreign Dignitaries`.

Lok Sabha Provisional Starred Question No. 714 for 7.7.04 is reproduced below:

Quote:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since March 2004 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) the details of the bilateral agreements including agreement on Agricultural products signed with them;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with others countries

Unquote:

2. All the Divisions of the Ministry are requested to furnish requisite inputs by 12 noon on July 2, 2004 so that the consolidated reply could be put up to EAM for approval.

(V.S. Ramalingam) Under Secretary (Parl) June 28, 2004

To
Heads of all Divisions AS (IO)/AS(LAC)

Most Immediate Parliament Question

No. AA/125/Parl/42/2004 MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(COORDINATION DIVISION)

Subject: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 466 for answer on 07.07.2004 by Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh and others regarding `Visit of Foreign Dignitaries`.

The Lok Sabha Unstarred Question mentioned above is at flag `A`.

2. The question has been circulated among all the Divisions of the Ministry and the inputs received are placed on the file.

3. A similar question answered in on 3.12.2003 is at flag `B`.

4. Answer to the question has been attempted based on the inputs received and placed at flag `C` for approval please.

(V.S. Ramalingam) Under Secretary(Parl) July 3, 2004

Joint Secretary (Coord)

Secretary (PCD)

MOS (EA)